

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03935 151606Z

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 /027 W

-----105422 151719Z /64

R 150826Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8009

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FOR M - DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ

FOR NEA - ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, AF

SUBJECT: POST CLASSIFICATION

1. WHEN I DEPART KABUL ON JUNE 14, THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE POST DROPS FROM III TO IV. THE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THIS HAPPENING IS A REDUCTION BY \$2,500 PER YEAR IN THE SALARY OF SIX OFFICERS OF THE MISSION. MOREOVER, AS COUNSELORS ARE REPLACED, THEIR SUCCESSORS WILL BE FIRST SECRETARIES, A SHIFT WHICH WILL CLEARLY IMPLY TO LOCAL OBSERVERS, INCLUDING THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME, A DOWNGRADING OF OUR MISSION.

2. WHEN THE DECISION TO DOWNGRADE KABUL WAS MADE A YEAR AGO, I WENT ON RECORD THAT IT WAS CLEARLY A MISTAKE. THE DECISION LOOKS EVEN WORSE TO ME TODAY. THIS IS NOT A MINOR, SMALL, BACKWATER POST LIKE MANY CLASS IV MISSIONS. IT IS A POST WITH OVER 200 OFFICIAL AMERICAN PERSONNEL, PLUS FAMILIES, FROM SEVEN U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. IT HAS BEEN ADMINISTERING A BUDGET OF ABOUT \$30 MILLION PER YEAR, OF WHICH ABOUT \$20 MILLION HAS BEEN ECONOMIC AID. IT IS INVOLVED WITH COMBATING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND CULTIVATION ON A SCALE

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MATCHED BY AT MOST ONLY TWO OR THREE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. IT IS LOCATED IN A COUNTRY WHOSE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT OVERLOOKED BY WASHINGTON POLICY LEVELS IN THE PAST, BUT WHOSE IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN SHARPLY HIGHLIGHTED BY THE RECENT COUP AND BY REACTIONS TO THAT COUP IN IRAN, PAKISTAN, AND CHINA. MOREOVER, 95 PERCENT OF AFGHAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE

CARRIED OUT IN KABUL BY THE AMBASSADOR HERE AND HIS STAFF.

3. I URGE YOU TO REVERSE, BEFORE JUNE 14, THE DECISION TO DOWNGRADE KABUL TO CLASS IV. I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS REVERSAL DECISION PROMPTLY AND ON ITS MERITS AND NOT LET THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THE MATTER BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN ALL KINDS OF "GLOBAL" CONSIDERATIONS. I THINK THIS IS A CLEAR-CUT CASE THAT STANDS ON ITS OWN.
ELIOT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL03935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-0604
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780559/aaaabxzj.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dd8a1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2691451
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST CLASSIFICATION
TAGS: AMGT, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd8a1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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